

A Brief History of
THREE SCHOOLS

THE SCHOOL OF EXPRESSION.

**THE MARGARET EATON SCHOOL OF
LITERATURE AND EXPRESSION.**

THE MARGARET EATON SCHOOL.

1901 - 1941.

by

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DOROTHY N. R. JACKSON.

University of Toronto,
Falconer Hall,
January 1953.

PREFACE

It seems strange and significant that the official opening of Falconer Hall and The Margaret Eaton Library, by the University of Toronto, on November 21, 1952, should complete a cycle of events which began over fifty years ago.

It is equally noteworthy that more than twenty-five years ago women students and graduates of the University of Toronto were requesting a Women's Athletic Building, convenient, properly equipped, adequate for their use, and that now, with the opening of Falconer Hall, part of that desire has been realized.

Falconer Hall, the fine residential building formerly known as Wymilwood, of Victoria University, is a social and administrative centre for women, and the first unit of what is planned as the University of Toronto Women's Athletic Building. The beautiful Margaret Eaton Library stands in the south west section. The building was named 'Falconer Hall' in honour of Sir Robert Falconer, President of the University of Toronto from 1907 to 1932.

The circumstances which linked The Margaret Eaton Library with the University of Toronto, involved: the opening, in 1901, of The School of Expression; the incorporation, in 1906, of this School into The Margaret Eaton School of Literature and Expression; the reorganization, in 1925, which resulted in The Margaret Eaton School; and finally, in 1941, the merging of The Margaret Eaton School into the University of Toronto, to establish the School of Physical and Health Education.

The Margaret Eaton Library, which includes the books of all these Schools, was the gift of the T. Eaton Company Limited to the University of Toronto in memory of Margaret Wilson Eaton (Mrs. Timothy Eaton), the founder of The Margaret Eaton School of Literature and Expression.

The brief history which follows has been written to commemorate the hopes and dreams, the sacrifices and the triumphs, of those who were a part of the life of the three Schools, from 1901 to 1941.

D.N.R.J.

*The MARGARET EATON
School of LITERATURE
and EXPRESSION*



TORONTO·CANADA

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1912

A Brief History of THREE SCHOOLS

Forty years! The span of time which covers the history of the three Schools, takes the mind backward to the beginning of the twentieth century, and beyond to ancient Greek traditions.

The three institutions, from 1901 to 1941, sent out graduates to fill important positions in various parts of the world, and created an unique record in the educational pattern of Canada.

These Schools were:

1901 - 1906 The School of Expression.

1906 - 1925 The Margaret Eaton School of Literature and Expression.

1925 - 1941 The Margaret Eaton School.

In 1900, Emma Scott Raff, a young widow, was teaching at Victoria University in Toronto. She was convinced that literature could become a living art through the medium of the voice.

Encouraged by the Reverend Nathaniel Burwash, Chancellor of Victoria University, and guided by her own unshakeable faith, she opened a studio, in 1901, which was named: 'The School of Expression'. It was located above the old Traders Bank Building at the corner of Bloor and Yonge Streets—now the site of the Toronto Ladies' Club, above the Bank of Commerce. The interpretation of literature, the problems of voice production, and the promotion of physical education, thereafter, became the life work of that remarkable woman.

During the early years of the School, all classes in 'Physical Culture' were conducted in the gymnasium of Annesley Hall of Victoria University. The students were directed to co-ordinate their studies with the regular courses in the Faculty of Arts, and as they were registered at Victoria University, they had the privilege of making application for residence in Annesley Hall.

Mrs. Scott Raff contended that more attention should be given to the spoken word in education, and that earnest efforts should be made to improve the quality of voice, the health and grace of body, the imagination, and the artistic aptitudes of all students.

The motto chosen for the School was:

ΤΟ ΚΑΛΟΚΑΓΑΘΟΝ

'A Sound Mind in a Sound Body.'

It was symbolized in the School crest by the Greek torch encircled by a laurel wreath.

A statement of the purpose of the School appeared in the Calendar of 1905—1906, and was as follows:

"Believing that we can give nothing to our fellow-men but ourselves, and that our best self can only be revealed through co-ordination of mind and body, we aim to give such training that the physical, mental, and moral needs of the pupil may be equally supplied."

Included also in this Calendar was a message from Chancellor Burwash, a part of which is quoted:

"Our inner spiritual life and its expression are inseparably connected. Our thought, feeling and purpose, as they rise in our own consciousness, are already expressed, first to ourselves and then to others. It is equally true that the perfection of this inner life depends on the perfection of its expression. A thought that is not fully, clearly and adequately expressed is not fully, clearly and adequately conceived. Hence, in all ages, expression has been an important part of education. The prevailing method of education to-day cultivates written rather than vocal expression. This we regard as a very serious defect. Our most healthy, natural, and our highest spiritual life, is not that of the closet alone. It is face to face with our fellow-men, and in the great struggle of our active life that our best is called forth. As it is called forth, it at once finds expression in attitude, in countenance, and in spoken word, or act."

By 1905 the School of Expression had outgrown the accommodation of the studio at Bloor and Yonge Streets. Mrs. Scott Raff recorded that Mr. Timothy Eaton, at his summer residence in Muskoka, said to her: * "Go to Toronto and get Dr. Burwash to go with you, and buy land for a school in which to incorporate your teaching."

Action on this suggestion was taken at once. Land was secured and a building erected on North Street, now Bay Street, just south of Bloor Street. Mr. Harry McGee was appointed as the representative of the T. Eaton Company Limited to confer on the plans. The architect was Mr. W. R. Mead, and Thomson Brothers were the builders. Land, building and furnishings were the gift of Mr. Timothy Eaton for his wife. In 1906, a charter of incorporation as a School was obtained, and in honour of Mrs. Eaton, the School was named:

The Margaret Eaton School
of Literature and Expression.

The handsome grey stone building, with imposing Greek pillars, was considered to be one of the finest examples of pure Grecian architecture

*Calendar 1918-1919.

on this continent. In Toronto it was referred to as: 'The Greek Temple'. The impressive entrance was supplemented in the interior by panelled halls and furniture of clean-cut subdued lines. The recital hall and administrative offices were located on the ground floor; the principal's studio on the second floor. Appropriately, the caretaker was named 'Hermes'.

The aim of the School was two-fold: to establish the highest standards in the training of teachers in Literature, Dramatic Art and Physical Education, and to furnish special courses for personal culture.

The new motto adopted for the School was:

TO KAAOKATAΘON
'We Strive for the Good and the Beautiful.'

Olive green and white became the School colors, and the wreath-encircled torch was replaced by the lamp of learning as the School crest.

The Board of Directors, the Advisory Council, and the Principal were responsible for the administration. The Calendar for the year 1907-1908 lists these groups, and the members of the Faculty as follows:

Directors

Mr. Timothy Eaton

Chancellor Burwash

Mrs. T. Eaton

Mr. John C. Eaton

Mr. Harry McGee

Mrs. N. Burwash

Mrs. Scott Raff

Mr. R. Y. Eaton

Advisory Council

Reverend Dr. Withrow

Miss Florence Withrow

Dr. F. H. Torrington

Mrs. F. H. Torrington

Dr. F. Tracey

Mrs. V. M. Sweetnam

Professor Reynar

Mrs. Lillian Massey-Treble

Mr. E. R. Wood

Mrs. Josephine Burnside

Faculty

Mrs. Scott Raff, F.C.M., Principal

Miss Gertrude Philp, F.C.M.

Miss Florence Withrow, B.A.

Miss Charlotte Ross, B.A.

Mrs. W. H. Hincks, A.T.C.M.

Miss Edna G. Mills

Miss Helen Ward Armington

Mrs. V. M. Sweetnam, F.C.M.

Secretary

Miss Mary M. Thrall



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